

Signature

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations.

This permit must be completed to be valid and must be carried by the hunter while hunting on the refuge. It is not transferable.

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge General Hunt Permit

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959
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1 800/877 8339

www.fws.gov/refuge/crab_orchard

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Regulations
Hunting & Public Use
National Wildlife Refuge

The Refuge

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge established in 1947, contains 44,000 acres. For management purposes, the lands with in the refuge have been divided into an Open Area and a Restricted Area. The Restricted Area contains 21,000 acres and is only open to public hunting by special permit. The Open Area contains 23,000 acres where public hunting is permitted in accordance with state hunting seasons.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations. These regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below govern hunting on National wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulation. Hunting will be in accordance with all applicable state regulations subject to the following regulations.

Weapons

Firearms and archery tackle are permitted only during designated hunts. Weapons legally possessed for hunting on the refuge are the same as those prescribed by the State of Illinois. Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded and encased or dismantled. Discharging firearms or any other weapons on the refuge is prohibited unless specifically authorized for hunting.

Ammunition

The possession of lead shot is prohibited refuge wide, except:

- During deer hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer may be used.
- Small game and furbearers may be hunted with .22 and .17 caliber rimfire lead ammunition during open season.

Permits

The Refuge General Hunt Permit on the front of this brochure must be signed and in the hunter’s possession while hunting on the refuge. Trapping on the refuge requires a Special Use Permit authorized by the refuge manager. Hunters must possess all State required licenses, stamps and permits for the species hunted.

Motorized Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the refuge. All vehicles are restricted to roads that are designated on the refuge map. Vehicle may be parked alongside roads in a manner that will not block gates or interfere with the normal flow of traffic. ATV’s are prohibited except by disabled hunters possessing a refuge special use permit.

Boats

The use of boats is authorized on the refuge. Boats may not be left overnight on the refuge. Devils Kitchen and Little Grassy Lakes have a 10-HP motor limit.

Specific Hunting Regulations

- Hunting is prohibited within 50 yards of all designated public use facilities including, but not limited to, parking areas, picnic areas, campgrounds, marinas, boat ramps, public roads and established hiking trails listed in the refuge trail brochure.
- State season and bag limits apply unless otherwise specified.
- Only Illinois legal game species may be taken in the Open Area of the refuge during the state season. All other animals are protected.
- Possession and use of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Hunting is prohibited in areas closed to hunting as indicated on the accompanying map or as otherwise posted.

- It is illegal to drive or screw any metal objects into a tree or to hunt from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed.
- Marking trails with paint, flagging, reflectors, tacks or other manmade materials is prohibited.
- Target practice or any non-hunting discharge of a weapon is prohibited.
- Youth hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult not less than 21 years old and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980, must show proof that they have successfully completed a Hunter Education Course.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting

Hunters may hunt migratory birds on designated opened areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations, subject to the following conditions:

- Hunters must possess and use only nontoxic shot.
- Goose hunters must use temporary blinds. Permanent blinds are not permitted on the refuge.
- Hunters must remove all boats, blinds and personal equipment brought onto the refuge at the end of each day’s hunt.
- Waterfowl hunting is not allowed in the restricted use area of Crab Orchard Lake.
- Waterfowl hunting blinds must be a minimum of 200 yards apart.
- Boat blinds must be anchored on shore or anchored a minimum of 200 yards away from any shoreline.
- Waterfowl hunters may also hunt on the eastern shoreline in Grassy Bay.
- Waterfowl hunters may hunt in the “Controlled Waterfowl Hunting Area” up to three (3) days prior to Canada goose season.
- Dove hunting in designated Dove Fields is permitted during posted dates and times.

- Waterfowl hunters must attend a special drawing the day of the hunt prior to hunting in this area.
- All hunters must report their harvest at the end of each day’s hunt.
- Hunters must hunt from assigned refuge blinds or markers. Water blind hunters are permitted to hunt from a boat immediately adjacent to their blind/marker.
- Waterfowl hunting is permitted one-half (1/2) hour before official sunrise to posted closing times.

Upland Game Hunting

Hunters may hunt upland game on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations, subject to the following conditions:

- Upland game hunting is prohibited in the Controlled Waterfowl Hunting Area during the Canada goose hunting season, except furbearer hunting is allowed from legal sunset to legal sunrise.
- The use of rifles or handguns with ammunition larger than .22 caliber rim fire are prohibited.
- The use of black powder firearms up to, and including, .40 caliber are permitted.
- Hunters must possess and use only nontoxic shot.
- The use of .22 and .17 caliber rimfire lead ammunition for the taking of small game and furbearers is allowed during State season.
- Upland game hunting is prohibited within 50 yards of all designated public use facilities, including, but not limited to parking areas, picnic areas, campgrounds, marinas, boat ramps, public roads and established hiking trails listed in the refuge trails brochure.

Big Game Hunting

Hunters may hunt white-tailed deer and turkey on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

- Restricted Use Area deer and turkey hunters are required to check in at the Visitor Center prior to hunting.
- Handguns for the taking of deer in the Restricted Use Area are prohibited.
- Archery deer hunting is permitted in accordance with State regulations.
- Deer drives for the taking or attempting to take deer are prohibited.
- Firearm deer hunting is prohibited in the Controlled Waterfowl Hunting Area, all refuge lands NORTH of IL State Route 13 and NORTH of the Crab Orchard Lake emergency spillway and west of Crab Orchard Lake. (See Map)
- Deer hunting is prohibited within 50 yards of all designated public use facilities, including, but not limited to, parking areas, picnic areas, campgrounds, marinas, boat ramps, public roads and established hiking trails listed in the refuge trails brochure.
- Hunting stands and blinds must be removed at the end of each day’s hunt.
- Turkey hunters may only use and possess non-toxic lead-free shot.

To protect the natural resources of the refuge and to provide all visitors with a safe, enjoyable recreation experience, please follow these guidelines:

- **Alcoholic Beverages**
Entering or remaining on the refuge when under the influence of alcohol is prohibited. The possession or use of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21 is prohibited. Contributing alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of 21 is prohibited. The possession or use of alcoholic beverages in the refuge campgrounds is prohibited.
- **Boating** - Motorboats are restricted to a “no wake” within 150 feet of any shoreline, swimming area, marina, boat ramp, or causeway tunnel. Devils Kitchen and Little Grassy Lakes have a 10-HP motor limit.
- **Camping**
Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds.
- **Campfire**
Campfires are allowed only in designated areas where controlled structures are provided.
- **Collecting**
Disturbing, injuring, or collecting plants, animals, or objects of antiquity without a special use permit is prohibited.
- **Domestic Animals**
Unconfined domestic animals are prohibited on the refuge, except dogs during the hunting season.
- **Group Events** - A special use permit is required to hold a group event on the refuge to which the public is invited, whether or not an use fee is charged.

- **Fireworks**
Possession or use of fireworks or explosives is not allowed on the refuge.
- **Private Structures**
Private structures of any kind are not allowed on the refuge without a special use permit, except for temporary blinds and stands which must be removed at the end of each day.
- **Swimming**
Swimming is prohibited at Devils Kitchen Lake, the closed portion of Crab Orchard Lake, marina areas, and within 100 feet of boat ramps, spillways, causeways, and dams. Public nudity and scuba diving are prohibited.
- **Vegetation**
Cutting, removing, or damaging any tree or other vegetation, standing or down, live or dead, is prohibited.
- **Vehicles**
Motorized vehicles are prohibited on refuge lands except on designated public roads and routes of travel. Parking beyond vehicle control barriers, or on grass or other vegetation is prohibited.
- **Recreation Use Fees**
Entrance and User fees are required for all vehicles and boats using the refuge. Passes are available at the refuge Visitor Information Center and Campgrounds.

- **Bicycling**
Bicycling is permitted only on roads open to motorized vehicles and trails established especially for bicycles.
- **Collecting Wild Foods** - Fruits, nuts, berries and fruiting bodies of mushrooms may be gathered by hand for personal use for consumption. Commercial use of these products are prohibited.
- **Rock Climbing**
Rapelling, free-style and technical rock climbing is prohibited.
- **Fee Program**
Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge has entrance and lake use fees. All vehicles entering and vessels using Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge are required to have a pass.

FEE SCHEDULE

Entrance Fees

Vehicle (1 day)..... \$2.00 per vehicle
(covers all passengers)

Vehicle (7-days)..... \$5.00 per vehicle
(covers all passengers)

Vehicle (annual pass) \$15.00 first vehicle
(July - June)
(covers all passengers)

Federal Duck Stamp
(annual pass)
(July - June) \$15.00 first vehicle
(covers all passengers)

Interagency Senior Pass \$10.00 US residents
age 62 or older
ifetime pass

Interagency Annual Pass \$80.00
valid for one year from
month purchased.

Interagency Access Pass Free - medically
determined to be
permanently disabled
lifetime pass.

For a family purchasing an annual entrance pass
(excluding the Interagency Age and Access Passes)
additional annual passes for immediate family mem-
bers at the same address will be \$ 5.00.

Lake Use Fees

All vessels/boats using the refuge will be assessed a
lake use fee charge. This includes vessels that are in
dry storage and/or maintained in slips at the marinas.

Vessel (1 day) \$2.00 per vessel

Vessel (7-days) \$5.00 per vessel

Vessel (annual pass) \$10.00 first vessel

(July - June) \$5.00 each additional
vessel

Holders of Interagency Senior and Access Passes are
authorized a 50% discount of the full value price for
Lake Use Fees. Additional annual vessel passes are
already discounted, therefore all additional passes are
\$ 5.00.

In order for the pass to be valid it must be affixed
directly to the vessel on the port (left) bow next to, but
not overlapping the state registration.

Special Recreation Permit Fees

For specialized uses such as group activities, recre-
ational events and rental fees.

Fish-off Permit \$35.00 per organization
(permit allows the
organization to host
one fish-off at each of
the three lakes per
season)

Special Deer Hunt \$ 5.00 per person per
season

